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SOURCE Leningradskaya Pravda.TRACTOR PLANTS ADVANCE TECHNIQUES

IMPROVES TRACTOR MODEL -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 88, 13 Apr 50

In order to advance production techniques, the Leningrad Kirov Plant is maintaining close contact with men of science. The plant has concluded 60 agreements with scientific-research institutes, educational institutions, and individual scientists. As a result of such collaboration, the plant has been able to make a number of improvements in the skidding tractor. It has also mechanized over 75 percent of the casting of one of the most complex machines produced at the plant. Last year, it converted to cold stamping over 750 parts previously produced by hand, and introduced more than 2,000 dies and attachments; at the same time it organized 58 conveyers for the machining of parts.

High-speed metalworking marks the plant's operations. Hundreds of machine tools have been converted to this method in the mechanical shops. The struggle for the advancement of techniques has given rise to hundreds of high-production workers and innovators. The plant's designers have joined the movement for the production of the most economical units and machines, and have opened individual achievement accounts.

In an effort to bring about regularity in the production rate, the plant decided in the second quarter of last year to introduce an hourly schedule, but found this scheme extremely difficult to carry out because of the nature of the plant's operations, where not only large-series but also small-series and even piece production take place. In the first three quarters of 1949, the plant struggled with the norms in last-minute, speed-up fashion. However, following a drive by the Party organizations, one by one the various shops began to produce with a regular, even tempo. In the fourth quarter, the plant fulfilled 32 percent of the year plan and captured the Red Banner.

In 1950, the plant faces new problems. It must put into production a number of complicated new machines, increase production indexes for all items of output, and sharply reduce expenditure of fuel, materials, and electric power. It must also improve the quality of the products. The plant is facing

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the new tasks with confidence, having established a regular hourly schedule and adhering to it without deviation. Its success is reflected in the results of the first quarter of 1950, during which the plan was completed in respect to gross and commercial production. Labor productivity during 2 months of this period, in comparison with last year, increased 15.3 percent; production cost was reduced 28.2 percent; and above-plan savings constituted 1,883,000 million rubles. -- P. Abroskin, director of the Kirov Plant

STUDIES NEW DESIGNS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 91, 16 Apr 50

At a meeting of scientists and industrialists of the city of Leningrad on 14 April 1950, Chief Engineer Zakhar'in of the Kirov Plant reported that his plant had increased its commercial production during the first quarter of 1950 over the same period of 1949. The plant produces skidding tractors, powerful forming machines, and other high-precision machinery.

To improve machine designs, the plant is carrying on large experimental studies in collaboration with scientific-research institutes. As a result, it is producing more with less manpower than in prewar years. However, much remains to be done. The plant has few combination tools; its number of conveyor lines is inadequate; it still does thread cutting by means of cutters instead of machine tools; it uses up large quantities of high-alloy, heavy steels.

The plant does not intend to undertake new types of production without first installing conveyor lines. To illustrate, not long ago it completely transformed within a few days an entire shop through the installation of conveyor lines. This reduced labor consumption in manual operations 68 percent, and 48.5 percent for tractor output as a whole.

In the near future, the plant will undertake a number of tasks in collaboration with Leningrad scientists. To accelerate the pace of technological development, the plant hopes to establish this year a special shop for non-standardized equipment.

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